TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, February 26, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended February 21 totaled an estimated 17.0 billion ton-miles, 1.3 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first eight weeks of 1987 was an estimated 130.5 billion ton-miles, down 2.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended February 21 totaled 377,848, up 1.6 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 2.6 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 2.4 percent in the East and up 6.4 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 11 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. However, grain showed a gain of 4,844 cars (22.8 percent) while chemicals and allied products increased by 2,813 cars (11.5 percent). Seventeen of the 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 14 totaled 100,117 trailers and/or containers, 7.1 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first seven weeks of the year was 638,665 trailers and/or containers, up 3.7 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 2/21/87:

	Loadings in Week ended February 21, 1987		Change from Corresponding Week 1986			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	26,108	I	4,844	22.8	D	584	2.2
Other farm products	3,236	I	768	31.1	D	169	5.0
Metallic ores	12,144	D	654	5.1	D	199	1.6
Coal	107,280	D	4,589	4.1	D	1,036	1.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	9,539	D	786	7.6	D	1,117	10.5
Nonmetallic minerals	8,859	I	680	8.3	I	74	0.8
Grain mill products	11,382	I	808	7.6	D	207	1.8
Food and kindred products	10,651	I	165	1.6	D	858	7.5
Primary forest products	10,220	D	1,158	10.2	D	1,031	9.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,479	I	1,046	14.1	I	312	3.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,963	D	988	7.1	D	207	1.6
Chemicals and allied products	27,326	I	2,813	11.5	I	551	2.1
Petroleum products	4,791	I	637	15.3	I	116	2.5
Stone, clay and glass products	8,457	D	315	3.6	D	1,212	12.5
Coke	4,227	D	493	10.4	D	11	0.3
Metals and products	7,949	D	811	9.3	D	1,058	11.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,640	D	1,607	6.9	D	601	2.7
Waste and scrap materials	8,470	I	134	1.6	D	425	4.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,598	D	2,806	51.9	D	264	9.2
All other carloads	71,437	I	8,240	13.0	D	2,199	3.0
LCL traffic	92	D	31	25.2	D	11	10.7
Total Cars Loaded	377,848	I	5,897	1.6	D	10,136	2.6
Corresponding week of 1986	371,951						

	1987	1986	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (8 weeks)	2,895,614	2,939,904	D 1.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
7 Weeks ended February 14	113.5	116.6	D 2.6
Week ended February 21	17.0	16.8	I 1.3
8 Weeks cumulative	130.5	133.3	D 2.2

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